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Application No. 09/633,365

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-47, and add new claims 48-58 as set forth below.

E1
B2

48. A method for establishing transactions among trading partners in a network, comprising:
maintaining a registry of machine-readable specifications specifying business services offered by trading partners, the machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners; and

providing, in response to a request, one or more of the machine-readable specifications from said registry is via a communication network to a requesting node.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein said machine-readable specifications comprises data identifying respective descriptions of sets of storage units and logical structures for the sets of storage units.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said machine-readable specifications included data adapted for parsing to identify an input document and one or more transactions which accept said input document.

51. The method of claim 48, wherein the definitions of the documents to be exchanged comprise respective descriptions of sets of storage units and logical structures for the sets of storage units.

52. The method of claim 48, wherein the machine-readable specifications include documents compliant with a definition of a predefined document including logical structures for storing an identifier of a particular transaction, and at least one of definitions and references to definitions of input and output documents for the particular transaction.